



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: September 23, 2002, 1:00 p.m.  
Week Ending: September 22, 2002  
CWP Vol 02 No 28 WA-CW3802

## Corn Maze and U-Pick Pumpkin Patches Were Open to the Public Hay Producers in Central Washington Were Harvesting 4th and 5th Cuttings

### Field Crops

Fall tillage work was underway in most counties, with winter wheat seeding just over half completed across the state. Potato, sweet corn, carrot and hop harvests continued to progress. U-Pick pumpkin farms were posting signs inviting the public to tour their corn mazes. Flower bulb growers were open for fall bulb sales. Turf grass growers were busy irrigating and applying herbicides to newly planted fields.

### Livestock

Western Washington livestock producers were applying herbicides to blackberry infested pastures. Dairy farmers continued to apply liquid manure to forage fields. Alfalfa third cutting was 100% completed. Some hay producers in Central Washington were harvesting 4th and 5th alfalfa cuttings. Range and pasture conditions were 8% very poor, 51% poor, 29% fair and 12% good.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Apple, grape and fall vegetables continued to be harvested. Blueberry harvest was complete in Thurston County. Greenhouse tomato growers continued to report excellent yields, fruit quality and sales.

#### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.8
Last Week	7.0

#### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	14	60	26	0
Subsoil	3	55	42	0
Irrigation Water	0	2	98	0
Hay & Roughage	0	8	92	0

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

#### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2001	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	67	65	61	58
Winter Wheat Emerged	43	30	37	33
Potatoes Harvested	69	68	37	41
Corn Silage Harvested	26	22	38	39
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	34	27	36	42
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	100	99	100	99

#### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	0	5	95	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	2	10	88	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Grays Harbor:** Beautiful autumn weather dominated the week, providing ag producers some additional time to complete farm chores before the winter rainy season. Livestock producers were applying herbicides to blackberry infestations in pastures. A light frost at the end of the week marked the end of the growing season for sweet corn in many parts of the county. Christmas tree growers continued to inventory fields for this year's harvest. U-Pick pumpkin farms were posting signs in preparation for the opening of fields on October 1. Spring flowering bulb growers opened their farms to the public for fall bulb sales. Greenhouse tomato growers continued to report excellent yields, fruit quality, and sales.

**Thurston:** Several minor rain showers early in the week, did little to alleviate dry soil conditions. By the end of the week, sunny days brought temperatures up to the mid-seventies. Ag producers were putting equipment in storage for the winter. Dairy producers continued applying liquid manure to forage fields. Christmas tree growers started removing stakes from Noble fir leaders. The first frost of the fall occurred on the morning of September 21. Fortunately, it was not severe enough to injure most home garden vegetables. Most U-Pick pumpkin farms opened corn mazes to the public over the weekend. Turfgrass growers continued irrigating newly planted fields and applying herbicides for weed control. The blueberry harvest was complete.

## Central

**Benton:** Hops, apples, grapes, and fall vegetables were being harvested under ideal conditions. Mint was being cut. The weather continued to be dry and mild.

**Franklin:** The weather was generally sunny with cooler temperatures. The last harvest of alfalfa was underway, with growers taking the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> cuttings. Potatoes, carrots, sweet corn, and apples were also harvested. Some fields were treated with cover crops and/or soil fumigation.

**Grant:** Fall soil fumigation for potatoes and onions were underway. Vegetable seed harvest neared completion with the exception of snap/garden beans. The 4<sup>th</sup> cutting of alfalfa was about 70 percent cut.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures ranged from 4 degrees above normal to 4 degrees below normal with a trace of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Winter wheat seeding was complete and was about 90 percent emerged.

**Asotin/Garfield:** The weather conditions were very dry. Rain is needed!

**Lincoln:** Winter wheat seeding was mostly complete with the exception of the northern part of the county. Emergence looked good to date with an estimated 60 percent of the crop emerged.

**Whitman:** The county received some precipitation on Monday evening and Tuesday, with accumulations ranging from .2 to .7 inches. The

moisture was insufficient in many areas, and dry topsoil conditions continued to be a problem on many farms. Farmers will move forward with winter wheat seeding in all areas of the county during the coming week and should complete most of the winter wheat seeding within a couple of weeks.

**Whitman (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Rainfall hit the area last week, amounting to about ½ inch in the Colfax area, with less in the west and a little more to the east. Fall tillage work was in full swing but most producers were holding off on fall seeding.

**Weekly Weather Statistics**  
**September 23, 2002**

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	37	69	55	-3	36	-13	0	-7	0.36	-0.12	2	0.59	-0.74	44	5
Everett	43	68	57	-1	50	-3	2	-5	0.20	-0.32	4	0.39	-1.12	26	7
Hoquiam	42	75	58	-3	57	-11	2	-12	0.50	-0.31	4	1.58	-0.60	72	7
Kelso	41	81	60	-1	70	1	5	-10	0.09	-0.47	1	0.14	-1.51	8	3
Olympia	35	76	57	-1	47	-4	2	-5	0.15	-0.41	2	0.50	-1.05	32	5
Seattle-Tacoma	47	75	60	-1	69	0	5	-9	0.18	-0.29	2	0.27	-1.05	20	4
Shelton	35	79	57	-3	54	-12	1	-13	0.30	-0.37	1	0.34	-1.46	19	2
Tacoma	36	75	58	-2	55	-7	3	-6	0.31	-0.17	2	0.46	-0.91	34	5
Vancouver	43	85	61	3	81	15	11	-3	0.30	-0.19	2	0.30	-1.13	21	2
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	32	77	58	1	60	4	8	-6	0.03	-0.10	1	0.03	-0.38	7	1
Omak	32	81	59	3	61	7	8	-6	0.02	-0.16	1	0.04	-0.59	6	3
Stampede Pass	37	71	49	1	8	-8	0	0	0.52	-0.32	3	0.73	-1.62	31	4
Wenatchee	43	82	62	0	88	1	24	-6	0.01	-0.06	1	0.30	-0.02	94	3
Yakima AP	33	84	59	-2	62	-8	6	-14	0.00	-0.07	0	0.00	-0.32	0	0
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	33	82	59	4	63	16	6	-4	0.11	-0.17	2	0.11	-0.77	13	2
Deer Park	27	76	54	-4	35	-23	2	-14	0.28	0.07	2	0.35	-0.31	53	5
Spokane AP	36	75	55	-3	39	-19	0	-17	0.42	0.28	1	0.50	-0.07	88	3
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	39	83	61	-2	82	-11	16	-18	0.00	-0.11	0	0.00	-0.28	0	0
Moses Lake	36	85	60	-4	75	-18	17	-17	0.00	-0.11	0	0.00	-0.28	0	0
Quincy	36	81	62	2	89	12	24	0	0.00	-0.07	0	0.00	-0.35	0	0
Ritzville	35	86	58	-2	56	-8	13	-5	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.40	0	0
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	36	83	63	-5	90	-26	28	-23	0.00	-0.07	0	0.00	-0.27	0	0
Pasco	34	88	62	-2	85	-7	24	-10	0.01	-0.06	1	0.01	-0.27	4	1
Pullman	27	77	55	-3	39	-16	1	-13	0.24	0.01	1	0.32	-0.36	47	3
Whitman Mission	30	83	60	-1	70	-2	15	-8	0.21	0.07	2	0.21	-0.23	48	2
<b>IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A' AP	30	82	56	-4	43	-23	8	-10	0.72	0.44	2	0.73	-0.15	83	3
Lewiston ID	42	86	63	0	92	1	30	-6	0.23	0.09	3	0.29	-0.29	50	5

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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